

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please replace prior versions and listing of claims with the following:

1-55. (Previously Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) An isolated strain of ~~Bifidobacterium~~ Bifidobacterium UCC 35624  
~~[NCIMB 41003]~~ NCIMB 41003.

57. (Previously presented) The strain of claim 56 in the form of viable cells.

58. (Previously Presented) The strain of claim 56 in the form of non-viable cells.

59. (Currently amended) A formulation comprising the strain of claim + 56.

60. (Currently amended) The formulation of claim 59 further comprising at least one further strain of ~~Bifidobacterium~~ Bifidobacterium.

61. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising a probiotic material.

62. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising a prebiotic material.

63. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising a strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius*.

64. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 63, wherein the strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* is in the form of viable cells.

65. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 63, wherein the strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* is in the form of non-viable cells.

66. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 63, wherein the strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* is isolated from a resected and washed human gastrointestinal tract and is significantly immunomodulatory following oral consumption in humans.

67. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 66, wherein the strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* inhibits the growth of Gram positive bacteria, Gram negative bacteria, or both.

68. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 67, wherein the strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* secretes a product having antimicrobial activity into a cell-free supernatant that is produced only by growing cells and is destroyed by proteinase K and pronase E, wherein the inhibition of growth and antimicrobial activity are maintained in the presence of physiological concentrations of human bile and human gastric juice.

69. (Currently amended) The formulation of claim 63, wherein the strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* is *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain UCC 118 [~~NCIMB 40829~~] NCIMB 40829 or a mutant or a variant thereof.

70. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 69, wherein the mutant is a genetically modified mutant.

71. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 69, wherein the variant is a naturally occurring variant.

72. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising an ingestible carrier.

73. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 72, wherein the ingestible carrier is a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

74. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 73, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is in the form of a capsule, a tablet, or a powder.

75. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 72, wherein the ingestible carrier is a food product.

76. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 75, wherein the food product is acidified milk, a yogurt, a frozen yogurt, a milk powder, a milk concentrate, a cheese spread, a dressing, or a beverage.

77. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising a protein, a peptide, a lipid, a carbohydrate, a vitamin, a mineral, or a trace element.

78. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 77, wherein the protein or the peptide is rich in glutamine, glutamate, or both.

79. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, wherein the *Bifidobacterium* is present at more than  $10^6$  cfu per gram of the formulation.

80. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising an adjuvant.

81. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising a bacterial component.

82. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising a drug entity.

83. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, further comprising a biological compound.

84. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 59, wherein the formulation is suitable for oral administration to a subject.

85. (Previously presented) A foodstuff comprising the strain of *Bifidobacterium* of claim 56.

86. (Previously presented) A foodstuff comprising the formulation of claim 59.

87. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the *Bifidobacterium* strain of claim 56 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

88. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the formulation of claim 59 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

89-134. (Canceled)